

## *Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis* (Whooping cough) Nasopharyngeal Culture

**Administering Department:** Microbiology

**Test Contact:** Vivian Lockary (208) 334-2235 ext 257, Cori Larson ext 255

**Purpose of Test:**

Culture and identification of *Bordetella pertussis*, the causative agent of Whooping Cough, from nasopharyngeal specimens.

**Sample and Submission Guidelines:** See *Bordetella pertussis* Collection and Materials and Procedures

**Sample Rejection Criteria:**

- Cough plates or throat swabs are unacceptable
- Specimens collected on rayon or cotton swabs may be toxic to *Bordetella pertussis*
- Refrigerated specimens
- Mislabeled specimen
- Unlabeled specimen

**Method:** Culture

**Possible Results and Meaning:**

The isolation of *B. pertussis* is always significant. Patients who are symptomatic by definition have pertussis; those who do not have symptoms are carriers and present a public health risk. Both should be treated. **Note:** Because of issues related to specimen collection, transport and the fastidious nature of *B. pertussis*, culture is considered no more than 50% sensitive.

**Charge for test:** There is currently no charge for *Bordetella sp.* culture.

**Turn-Around-Time:** 9-11 days

**Links:** [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/pertussis\\_t.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/pertussis_t.htm)